

## **IN THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

### **Listing of Claims**

1. (Currently Amended) An information management system comprising:  
a center processing apparatus for performing user-information analysis; and  
a plurality of information processing apparatuses for storing user information;  
wherein:

the user information includes operation information representing parameter changes of image or audio signal based on an operation by a user;

said center processing apparatus comprises:

acquiring means for acquiring user information collected from each of the information processing apparatuses;

analyzing means for analyzing the user information acquired by said acquiring means;

user-information recording means for recording, in a database, the information obtained by the analysis by said analyzing means;

selecting means for selecting, based on the user information obtained by the analysis by said analyzing means, optimal procedures for users of the information processing apparatuses; and

providing means for providing the users with a product or a circuit board having a function of the optimal procedures selected by said selecting means to update an existing product or circuit board having a corresponding function; and

each of said information processing apparatuses comprises:

operation-information accepting means for accepting operation information from the user;

signal processing means for processing an input signal, based on the operation information accepted by said operation-information accepting means; and

storage means for storing, as the user information, the operation information and information concerning the input signal.

2. (Currently Amended) An information processing method for an information management system comprising a center processing apparatus for performing user-information analysis and a plurality of information processing apparatuses for storing user information, wherein:

the user information includes operation information representing parameter changes of image or audio signal based on an operation by a user;

a center processing method for said center processing apparatus comprises:

an acquiring step for acquiring user information collected from each of the information processing apparatuses;

an analyzing step for analyzing the user information acquired in the acquiring step;

a user-information recording step for recording, in a database, the information obtained by the analysis in the analyzing step;

a selecting step for selecting optimal procedures for users of the information processing apparatuses, based on the information obtained by the analysis in the analyzing step; and

a provision step for providing the users with a product or a circuit board having a function of the procedures selected in the selecting step to update an existing product or circuit board having a corresponding function; and

an information processing method for each of the information processing apparatuses comprises:

an operation-information accepting step for accepting operation information from the user;

a signal processing step for processing an input signal, based on the operation information accepted in the operation-information accepting step; and

a storage step for storing, as the user information, the operation information and information concerning the input signal.

3. (Currently Amended) A center processing apparatus for processing user information from a plurality of information processing apparatuses, said center processing apparatus comprising:

acquiring means for acquiring user information collected from each of the information processing apparatuses;

analyzing means for analyzing the user information acquired by said acquiring means;

user-information recording means for recording, in a database, the information obtained by the analysis by said analyzing means;

selecting means for selecting, based on the information obtained by the analysis by said analyzing means, optimal procedures for users of the information processing apparatuses; and

providing means for providing the users a product or a circuit board having a function of with the procedures selected by said selecting means to update an existing product or circuit board having a corresponding function.

wherein the user information includes operation information representing parameter changes of image or audio signal based on an operation by a user.

4. (Original) A center processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said selecting means includes determining means which calculates a variation in the user information and which determines whether or not the variation is greater than a predetermined threshold, and said selecting means classifies the users into predetermined groups based on the result of determination by said determining means.

5. (Original) A center processing apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising procedure recording means in which the optimal procedures are recorded so as to differ depending on the predetermined groups.

6. (Original) A center processing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said providing means includes:

basic part determining means which, based on the result of determination by said determining means, acquires one procedure from said procedure recording means, and which, based on the acquired procedure, determines a basic part of a function to be provided to the user; and

unique part determining means which, based on the user information analyzed by said analyzing means, determines a part unique to the user in the function.

7. (Original) A center processing apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising updating means which, based on the user information recorded by said user-information recording means, updates the threshold in said determining means.

8. (Currently Amended) An information processing method for a center processing apparatus for processing user information from a plurality of information processing apparatuses, said information processing method comprising:

an acquiring step for acquiring user information collected from each of the information processing apparatuses;

an analyzing step for analyzing the user information acquired in the acquiring step;

a user-information recording step for recording, in a database, the information obtained by the analysis in the analyzing step;

a selecting step for selecting, based on the information obtained by the analysis in the analyzing step, optimal procedures for users of the information processing apparatuses; and

a providing step for providing the users a product or a circuit board having a function of with the procedures selected in the selecting step to update an existing product or circuit board having a corresponding function.

wherein the user information includes operation information representing parameter changes of image or audio signal based on an operation by a user.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium for storing program code executed by a processing apparatus for processing user information from a plurality of information processing apparatuses, said program comprising:

an acquisition control step for controlling acquisition of user information collected from each of the information processing apparatuses;

an analysis control step for controlling analysis on the user information acquired in the acquisition control step;

a user-information recording step for recording, in a database, the information obtained by the analysis in the analysis control step;

a selection-control step for controlling, based on the information obtained by the analysis in the analysis control step, selection of optimal procedures for users of the information processing apparatuses; and

a provision-control step for controlling provision of a product or a circuit board having a function of the procedures selected in the selection-control step to the users to update an existing product or circuit board having a corresponding function.

wherein the user information includes operation information representing parameter changes of image or audio signal based on an operation by a user.

10. (Currently Amended) A recording medium with a program for a center processing apparatus recorded thereon, the center processing apparatus processing user information from a plurality of information processing apparatuses, said program comprising:

an acquisition control step for controlling acquisition of user information collected from each of the information processing apparatuses;

an analysis control step for controlling analysis on the user information acquired in the acquisition control step;

a user-information recording step for recording, in a database, the information obtained by the analysis in the analysis control step;

a selection-control step for controlling, based on the information obtained by the analysis in the analysis control step, selection of optimal procedures for users of the information processing apparatuses; and

a provision-control step for controlling provision of a product or a circuit board having a function of the procedures selected in the selection-control step to the users to update an existing product or circuit board having a corresponding function.

wherein the user information includes operation information representing parameter changes of image or audio signal based on an operation by a user.

11. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

operation-information accepting means for accepting operation information from a user;

signal-processing means for processing an input signal in accordance with a product or a circuit board having a function of a predetermined procedure, which updates an existing product or circuit board having a corresponding function. based on the operation information accepted by said operation-information accepting means; and

storage means for storing, as user information to be provided to a provider of said information processing apparatus, the operation information and information concerning the input signal,

wherein the user information includes operation information representing parameter changes of image or audio signal based on an operation by a user, and

wherein the procedure is determined based on past user information of the user.

12. (Original) An information processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said storage means stores, as the operation information, the value of a parameter set by the user and a time that the parameter is set by the user.

13. (Original) An information processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said signal processing means performs an image creating process by performing classification adaptive processing on an input information signal.

14. (Original) An information processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said signal processing means is removable from said information processing apparatus.



15. (Currently Amended) An information processing method comprising:

an operation-information accepting step for accepting operation information from a user;

a signal processing step for performing, on an input signal, processing based on the operation information accepted in the operation-information accepting step in accordance with a product or a circuit board having a function of a predetermined procedure, which updates an existing product or circuit board having a corresponding function; and

a storage step for storing, as user information to be provided to a provider of said information processing apparatus, the operation information and information concerning the input signal,

wherein the user information includes operation information representing parameter changes of image or audio signal based on an operation by a user, and

wherein the procedure is determined based on past user information of the user.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium for storing a program executed by a computer, the program comprising:

an operation-information-acceptance control step for controlling reception of operation information from a user;

a signal-processing control step for controlling, based on the operation information accepted in the operation-information-acceptance control step, processing on an input signal in accordance with a product or a circuit board having a function of a predetermined procedure, which updates an existing product or circuit board having a corresponding function;  
and

a storage control step for storing, as user information to be provided to a provider of an information processing apparatus, the operation information and information concerning the input signal,

wherein the user information includes operation information representing parameter changes of image or audio signal based on an operation by a user.

17. (Currently Amended) A recording medium with a program recorded thereon, the program being executed by a computer, the program comprising:

an operation-information-acceptance control step for controlling reception of operation information from a user;

a signal-processing control step for controlling, based on the operation information accepted in the operation-information-acceptance control step, processing on an input signal in accordance with a product or a circuit board having a function of a predetermined procedure, which updates an existing product or circuit board having a corresponding function; and

a storage control step for storing, as user information to be provided to a provider of an information processing apparatus, the operation information and information concerning the input signal,

wherein the user information includes operation information representing parameter changes of image or audio signal based on an operation by a user.

18-24. (Canceled)